

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON APPOINTMENTS
TO ADVISORY BODIES, STANDING COMMITTEES, AND OTHER FORUMS, AND
CHANGES TO THE COP AS NEEDED

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) believes it is critical that the Council makes its views known with regard to the membership it recommends for the Advisory Committee to the WCPFC. The present situation is that the negotiation of the MOU called for by the 2006 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which could be a vehicle for the Council to express its views has stalled. In the meantime there has been a Federal Register notice published that is an open call for nominations to the WCPFC Advisory Committee with a deadline of September 11, 2007, for nominations. Given the present meeting schedule of the Council (not meeting until the week beginning September 10th) it is not possible for the Council to put forth Council "recommended" members of the Advisory Committee. The HMSAS is also aware that there are several individuals who have or will be putting in applications to sit on the Advisory Committee from the different stakeholders involved in the WCPFC treaty area.

At the same time, the HMSAS is mindful that the language of the implementing legislation only specifically mentions the Chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Advisory Committee, and the officials from the fisheries agencies of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam as being members of the WCPFC Advisory Committee. While not in any way seeking to limit the Secretary's discretion in appointing members of the Advisory Committee, the HMSAS believes that the interest of the Pacific Council's constituents in the fisheries of the western and central Pacific make it critical that the Council write to the Secretaries of Commerce and State and express its views.

In this regard, the HMSAS recommends to the Council that it request the Secretaries and WCPFC Commissioners to be sure that appointments to the Committee include representatives from the West Coast commercial fishermen who represent the principal gear types, an highly migratory species buyer and/or processor, a charter/sport fishermen, a recreational fishermen, a conservation non-governmental organization representative, and a member to represent the West Coast consuming public. It might be advisable to also mention the presence of fisheries officials from the three territories probably should be balanced by the presence of fisheries officials from California, Oregon, and Washington, and Hawaii.

PFMC
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